

# Regina Pacis Academy



Family Handbook  
2015-2016

# Regina Pacis Academy

Pacem Relinquo Vobis

Pacem Meam Do Vobis

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## Mission

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The mission of Regina Pacis Academy is to provide the highest quality classical education to our students in small classes by teachers committed to the orthodox Catholic faith. We are to offer a curriculum from the classical tradition of the Roman Catholic Church at a reasonable cost for all.

## Vision

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Regina Pacis Academy seeks to:

**TEACH** each student by providing an excellent academic education that empowers them to think critically and meet the challenges of life.

**EDUCATE** each student as to their faith, the humanities, the sciences and authentic values; so to develop a sense of what is good, right, noble, just and beautiful.

**FORM** the whole person of each student into an individual who puts truth and values into action. Students should display a critical discernment and possess a disposition toward service.

**PROTECT** the school environment by inviting those families who will share the values of a safe, loving and extended family environment.

**ATTRACT** those families who might think homeschooling is the only available option for their children.

**SHARE** the gift of this school with families who might not be able to afford the tuition but who can contribute in other meaningful ways.

## History

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Founded in 2005 as Anchor Academy, Regina Pacis Academy began classes in September of that year with 23 students and four teachers. Since that time, our enrollment in kindergarten through eighth grade has been growing each year. Classes this year are grouped as follows: kindergarten, first and second, third and fourth, fifth and sixth, seventh and eighth. Classes meet at the St. Mary's School building in Norwalk, Connecticut. Regina Pacis Academy is a member of the National Association of Private, Catholic and Independent Schools NAPCIS.

The grammar school is dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary under her title of Regina Pacis, Queen of Peace. Our Blessed Mother, through whom all graces are received, offers peace to all who struggle to imitate her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace is the result of a well fought battle and rests with the pure of heart.

On the emblem, the crown of the Queen of Peace hovers over the flood waters with the olive branch, a symbol of peace, on each side. Small anchors can be seen within the crown. They are symbols chosen for our mother school, Anchor Academy, and symbols for Spes Nostra, Our Hope.

Surrounding the crown are the words Our Lord spoke to his apostles the night before He died, “Pacem relinquo vobis, Pacem meam do vobis.” “Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you.” It is in embracing the Cross that we find peace.

## Objectives

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Regina Pacis Academy’s primary goal is the same as that of the Church – the salvation of souls. One of the principal means to achieve this goal is academic excellence. Additional goals and objectives of the school include the following:

### **Spiritual**

#### 1. Salvation of souls through:

- A practice of a life of prayer and worship
- An understanding of the importance of the Mass
- A love of the Eucharist
- Finding models of a Catholic way of living in the life of Christ and the examples of Mary and the saints
- A basic understanding of Catholic doctrine and practices
- A respect for, and loyalty to, the Magisterium of the Church, and familiarity with a variety of Catholic devotions

#### 2. Development of moral character, including:

- A spirit of Christian charity
- Respectful, obedient and responsible habits

- Refinement in manners, speech and dress in accordance with Christian ideals
- A respect for the dignity of human life and the partnership of body and soul
- A respect for and intelligent obedience to all duly constituted authority

### **Academic**

- To teach a child to be able to think and reason clearly and wisely
- To nurture a love of learning
- To provide an educational formation in full accordance with the teachings of the Catholic Church
- To train young minds to “. . . always [be] ready to give an answer to anyone who asks from you a reason for the hope that is within you . . .” ( 1Peter 3:15)
- To prepare children to continue on to high school with self-confidence, secure in their faith

## **Philosophy**

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### **The End of Christian Education**

As Pope Pius XI wrote in 1939 in his encyclical *Divini Illius Magistri (On Christian Education)*, “The proper and immediate end of Christian education is to cooperate with divine grace in forming the true and perfect Christian, that is, to form Christ Himself in those regenerated by Baptism.” A sound Catholic education is rooted in Christ and grounded in the Church and acknowledges God’s presence in all creation. With this knowledge comes humility and a joy for learning.

### **Classical Curriculum**

#### **Classical**

The classical pedagogy, successfully used by the Church through the ages, is uniquely situated to convey the “permanent things” to young minds eager for truth. This approach is suited to basic human nature and development and has been tested over centuries. Its purpose is not to teach the student everything, but instead to form in the student the ability to learn new material. Instead of teaching what to think, students are taught how to think. It is a rigorous education and requires self-discipline, but it trains students to be analytical and to be able to draw conclusions. It also fosters curiosity and a love of learning.

## **Trivium**

Mirroring the natural and organic development of the human mind, the classical approach, also known as the Trivium, divides the stages of learning into three: grammatical, dialectical or logical, and rhetorical. The grammatical stage (grades K to 6) emphasizes memorization and the learning of fundamental rules through drills and repetition. As grammar is the foundation for learning language, this stage provides building blocks for later learning. The logical stage (grades 7 to 9) takes these skills acquired in the grammatical stage and employs them for use in logical constructions. The child learns cause and effect, how things relate to each other and how they fit together. A child is ready for this stage when he has the capacity for abstract thought. The rhetorical stage (grades 10 to 12) takes facts and logic from the previous stages and uses them finally for creative purposes. This is when a student learns how to express what he has learned in a coherent fashion and learns the art of persuasive argument.

## **Curriculum**

The classical educational approach is language-based, instead of image-based. The study of Latin and Greek support the study of language. Latin is the language of the Church, the root language of English and the language used by minds educated in the classics throughout the history of Western Civilization. It serves to train the mind in a clear and logical manner.

A classical curriculum is history-intensive – many subjects are studied within the context of history, which is divided into four periods (the ancients, the medieval period through the early Renaissance, the late Renaissance through the early modern era, and modern times).

See Appendix A for Regina Pacis Academy Curriculum

## **Parents as the Primary Educators of Children**

As Pope John Paul II wrote in 1981 in his encyclical *Familiaris Consortio* (*On the Christian Family*), “The right and duty of parents to give education is essential, since it is connected with the transmission of human life; it is original and primary with regard to the educational role of others on account of the uniqueness of the loving relationship between parents and children; and it is irreplaceable and inalienable and therefore incapable of being entirely delegated to others or usurped by others.” Just as parents cooperate with God in creation (procreators), so do they cooperate with God’s will in their children’s salvation. Any formal educational institution can never replace parents in their role, but instead becomes an extension of the family. Teachers and administrators act as stewards toward the parents whose children are in their care, and work in harmony with parents to educate their children.

Regina Pacis Academy is governed by a Board of Trustees. It receives no diocesan or parish financial subsidies. The school is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501C (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

### **Role of Board of Trustees:**

The Regina Pacis Academy Board exists to formulate policy and give direction to the school. The Board is charged with furthering the school's mission and ensuring the school's success. This Board is involved in long-range issues, rather than day-to-day issues and in "big picture" planning and budgeting. The main roles of the Board are defined as follows:

- Protect and implement the school's mission to ensure the school's success through the office of the Principal
- Formulate and approve policies
- Develop and approve the strategic plan
- Develop and approve the annual budget
- Hire, evaluate, renew and/or terminate the Principal
- Set and approve salaries and tuition
- Approve the school's curriculum which is presented to it by the Principal
- Oversee Financial Accountability
- Perform any and all duties imposed on them by law, by articles of incorporation, or by the Bylaws.
- Meet at times required by the Bylaws.
- Others areas include: Finance, property, facilities issues, marketing, fundraising and development, stability, solvency, accreditation and governance

### **Role of Principal:**

The Principal of Regina Pacis Academy is the sole employee of the board who is charged with carrying out the board's broad direction and is considered the "Head" of the school. The Principal is responsible for day-to-day academic operations of the school without board intervention. The main roles of the Principal are defined as follows:

- Implement Board-approved policies
- Handle academic operations of the school
- Oversee the implementation of the curriculum and classroom management
- Hiring of faculty within the financial constraints determined by the board
- Oversight, evaluation, renewal and/or termination of faculty

- Long term implementation of Board-generated strategic plan
- In line with the mission, legal employment practices and board expectations regarding budgets and faculty

### **Role of Chaplain:**

- Administer the Sacraments (periodically hear student's confessions, primarily, as daily Mass is currently available through the parish).
- Speak to the children at morning assembly (or some other suitable time) to bolster their spiritual formation. Topics include sacred scripture, catechesis, lives of the Saints, the moral life, the Church, etc.
- Visit Theology classes occasionally to interact with and teach the children.
- Attend parent suppers and major fundraisers, to interact with parents and visitors.
- Meet with prospective parents upon request.
- Provide spiritual direction to those faculty, parents and students who request it.
- Provide disciplinary advice to those parents who request it.

### **Role of the Teachers:**

- Implement the curriculum as directed by the Principal
- Implement the School's mission, as well as the rules and procedures in the Faculty Handbook and Family Handbook
- Keep records and evaluate the students' performance
- Maintain an orderly and safe environment in the classroom and in school building
- Prepare and follow lesson plan approved by the principal
- Maintain good parent, student and faculty relationships
- Communicate with parents regarding children's academic progress
- Promptly alert parents and Principal when student is not meeting expectations
- Lead and facilitate discussion at lunch tables
- Possess a keen awareness of being a positive Christian role model through knowledge and practice of faith

## **Faculty**

The most important influence in a child's formal education, apart from the curriculum, is his teachers. Teachers have a responsibility to the parents of children, whose souls are entrusted to their care. They should be suitably trained in the subjects they teach and be faithful Catholics



striving to live in harmony with the teachings of the Church. Teachers should embody as well as impart Catholic moral truths, be fearless in refuting error and charitable in correcting students.

All teachers, as well as members of the board of trustees and administration at Regina Pacis Academy take an oath of fidelity to the Church. This public witness to their ecclesial communion accomplishes several things. It aids the teacher by safeguarding his/her intellectual integrity. It fosters a sense of unity of purpose within the faculty and administration, and it gives assurance to parents who seek truth in advertising with respect to education labeled “Catholic.” The willingness to take this oath of fidelity can also serve as an inspiration to students, as well as the broader Catholic community.

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## **Student Life**

### **1. The Mass and Devotions**

Regina Pacis Academy provides the opportunity to attend daily Mass at St.Mary’s Church before each school day and a school monthly Mass. Male students are encouraged to serve at Mass. Regina Pacis Academy also strives to foster a love of Catholic devotions, apart from the Mass, through the recitation of spiritual exercises such as the Angelus and the Morning Offering, and reading the lives of the saints, first Friday adoration, weekly rosary and monthly confession. These practices nurture youthful piety and become a path of self-expression according to the tastes and temperament of the child.

### **2. Drop off and Welcome**

As parents drop off their children in the morning, the teachers and Principal greet their students at the gym. This simple act of civility lets children know they are welcome at school, and it also visually suggests a handing over of the child to the teacher’s authority. Children are required to be at the school gym by 8:45AM. At 8:50AM the doors of the gym will close.

### **3. Morning gathering**

After the students have arrived attendance is taken. The Principal addresses the students and leads them in morning prayer . Sometimes a special guest (most often a clergy member) is invited to address the students on various topics. The Pledge of Allegiance is recited and the students are dismissed by grade to their teachers.

#### **4. Lunch**

Students are expected to bring a healthful Nut-free lunch daily. Lunch will be held in the gym, as no food or drink is permitted in the classrooms. Students sit at assigned tables, and a teacher heads each table, leads the students in prayer and guides the conversation at the table to ensure that all of the students are included and the topics discussed are appropriate.

#### **5. Recess**

Weather permitting, recess is held outdoors following lunch.

#### **6. Library**

Students have a scheduled time each week to visit the school library. The books and equipment are the property of the school, and students are reminded to treat them with care. If a book is destroyed or lost, the student's family is responsible for paying for the purchase and processing of a replacement copy. Parents should urge their children to remember to return books on time and undamaged so that all students have an equal opportunity to share the resources.

Donations are welcome. Books may be donated in honor of a student birthday. Contact the Principal for the library wish list.

#### **7. Student Pick-Up**

Dismissal is at 2:50PM. All Students will be picked up from the gym. Students will be released only to parents or to individuals specifically designated by the parents. The names, addresses and phone numbers of specifically designated individuals must be submitted to the school in writing, and will be kept on file.

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## **Admission Policy**

### **Application Process**

The application process for Regina Pacis Academy includes the following items:

- Completed application form
- Application fee of \$25
- Latest report cards and any educational testing or evaluations
- Transcripts from previous school

- School report (for home-schooled students)
- Interview with school Principal and a Board Member

Parents will be notified, within 30 days of submitting a completed application, whether their child has been accepted for admission.

Students entering kindergarten should be age 5 by January 1<sup>st</sup>. Exceptions can be made in individual cases. Any known concerns or problems that may affect a child's performance in the classroom, should be disclosed prior to admission.

### **Registration Process**

Once a student has been accepted for admission to Regina Pacis Academy, the following items need to be submitted in order for the student to be registered to attend school.

- Copy of birth certificate
- Immunization record
- School health report
- Medical permission form
- Emergency notification information
- Tuition contract

### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

Regina Pacis Academy admits students of any race, color, national origin and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship programs, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

### **Admission of Non-Catholic Students**

The curriculum and student life at Regina Pacis Academy are designed primarily for the children of Roman Catholic parents. The entire curriculum is permeated with Catholic philosophy. Prayer and daily Catholic devotions are an integral part of the school day. However, students who are not Catholic may be admitted to the school with the explicit understanding that all students must participate in all activities in the school including classes in Religion and Theology.

### **Tuition Schedule**

Tuition for the academic year is \$5,125 per student. Discount is available for each additional student. Families enrolling 5 or more children will only be required to pay for the first four. Tuition is paid in either monthly or semiannual installments.

Additional registration book fee of \$225 (per student) is required per year.

### **Financial Aid**

While the school's mission is to keep tuition affordable, some families have legitimate financial difficulties at times. Parents requesting financial aid are instructed by the Business Manager to fill out an online form from Student and School Services, a division of National Association of Independent Schools. This organization makes an aid recommendation and submits it to the school. The board's financial aid committee considers this recommendation as well as the applicant's most recent tax return and other applicable circumstances in making its determination as to whether or not to grant or deny aid.

## **Uniform Code and Appearance**

Presentation is important as students are representing themselves, their family and their school. Taking pride in one's appearance is an important virtue. It demonstrates self-respect and respect for those with whom you come in contact. As dress and appearance reflect attitudes, students should dress modestly and in good taste. Students should be neat, clean, well groomed and in proper uniform at all times while at school or school- related functions. All students are expected to abide by the following dress code and rules:

### **General**

- Uniforms must be clean, fit properly and be worn properly each day.
- No outerwear, such as coats or jackets may be worn during the school day. All hats and outerwear must be removed upon entering the building except for medical reasons.
- Only natural hair colors are allowed.
- Hair should be kept neat, clean and out of the eyes.
- No extreme hairstyles are permitted (including, but not limited to, punk, shaved or Mohawk style).

## **Girls**

- Girl's skirts must be hemmed below the knee.
- Simple jewelry such as a watch, ring, single stud earrings (no dangling earrings) or a single religious item (cross or medal) worn on a necklace are permitted.
- Hair accessories such as a headbands and barrettes should be simple and in good taste.
- No makeup (including finger nail polish) is permitted in grades K – 4. Modest, tasteful makeup and fingernail polish (it should not be distracting) may be worn in grades 5-8.
- No body piercing, other than ears is allowed.

## **Boys**

- Boy's shirt must be tucked in.
- Trouser waistbands may not be worn lower than an inch below the navel.
- Hair should be kept short (not below the collar or the bottom of the ear).
- No facial hair should be worn.
- No jewelry other than a watch is permitted.
- A single religious item such as a cross, medal or scapular may be worn inside the clothes.
- No makeup or fingernail polish is permitted.
- No body piercing is allowed.

## **Regina Pacis Academy Uniform**

**\*\*All Uniforms available from Lands End except boy's trousers\*\***

**\*\*Lands End School Number 9001-1375-4; web page: [www.landsend.com](http://www.landsend.com)\*\***

<b>Girls Uniforms</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Little Girl (size:4-7)</b>	<b>Girl (size:7-16)</b>
Solid Jumper ( <u>Grades K-4</u> )	Navy	068175	068176
*Solid A-Line Skirt ( <u>Grades 5-8</u> )	Navy	Girl (Reg): 430813 - Girl (Slim): 430814 Girl (Plus): 430815 - Junior: 430807	
Short Sleeve Oxford Shirt	White	458430-BQ3	458431-BQ8
Long Sleeve Oxford Shirt	White	458433-BQ7	458434-BQ1
Performance Fine Gauge Cardigan with Regina Pacis A. Emblem	Yellow (maize)	092806	092807
Performance Drifter Cardigan with Regina Pacis A. Emblem	Navy	414755	414756
OPTIONAL: Bike Shorts	Navy	192552	192553
Cable Knee Socks OR Tights	Navy or White	Option: 093594	
	Navy or White	Option: 434598	
Low-Heeled Shoes	Black or Navy		

\*Parents have the option of choosing a closely matching skirt if uncomfortable with the lengths offered by Lands End.

<b>Girls Gym Uniforms K-8</b>	<b>Color</b>	<b>Little Girl</b>	<b>Girl</b>
T-Shirt w/Regina Pacis A. Emblem OR Short Sleeve Polo Shirt	Gray Heather	393745-BQ3	393746-BQ8
	White	051377-BQ8	051402-BQ2
Athletic Pants OR Athletic Mesh Shorts	Classic Navy	430844	430846
	Classic Navy	393748	393749
OPTIONAL: Zip-Front Sweatshirt w/Regina Pacis A. Emblem	Pewter Heather	393711-BQ4	393712-BQ9
Socks	White		
Sneakers			

Boys Uniforms (K-8)	Color	Little Boy (size 4-7)	Boy (size 8-20)
Wool Trousers	Charcoal Gray	1. Liebman's Children's Clothing & Uniforms New Rochelle, NY 10801 914-632-2770 2. Flynn & O'Hara Uniforms (online) Philadelphia, PA 19154 800-441-4122 3. Frenchtoast.com (online)	
Easy Care Oxford Shirt Short Sleeve	White	Little Boy: 219302	Boy: 219304 Husky: 219305
Easy Care Oxford Shirt Long Sleeve	White	Little Boy: 219315	Boy: 219308 Husky: 219312
Fine Gauge V-Neck Vest w/ Regina Pacis A. Emblem ( <u>Grades K-4</u> )  OPTIONAL: Fine Gauge V-Neck Vest w/ Regina Pacis A. Emblem ( <u>Grades 5-8</u> ) May be worn under blazer	Classic Navy	Little Boy: 414752	Boy: 414753
Hopsack Blazer w/ Regina Pacis A. Emblem ( <u>Grade 5-8</u> )	Deep Navy	Little Boy: 406156	Boy: 406157 Husky: 406158
Tie**	Navy/Gold Stripe	Pre-Tied: 082220	426748
Socks	Black		
Shoes	Black		

\*\*Ties may also be ordered at: [www.solidcolorneckties.com/mobile/Product.aspx?ProductCode=IS48NB-3245](http://www.solidcolorneckties.com/mobile/Product.aspx?ProductCode=IS48NB-3245)

Boys Gym Uniforms K-8	Color	Little Boy	Boy
T-Shirt w/Regina Pacis A. Emblem	Gray Heather	393751-BQ9	393752-BQ3
Athletic Pants OR Athletic Mesh Shorts	Classic Navy	430883	430884
	Classic Navy	393754	393755
OPTIONAL: Zip-Front Sweatshirt w/Regina Pacis A. Emblem	Pewter Heather	393713-BQ3	393714-BQ8
Socks	White		
Sneakers			

Good discipline originates in the home because the parent is the first teacher of the child. It is the parent's obligation, by teaching and by example, to develop in the child, habits of behavior as well as proper attitudes toward the school. Students attending Regina Pacis Academy should be able to enjoy the companionship of other children who edify, not scandalize. The following are guidelines to ensure that the school is able to fulfill its mission.

### **Courtesy and Deportment**

- Students should maintain an attitude of respect for those in authority. All adults should be addressed by name, including the title of Mr., Miss or Mrs. If the name of the adult is not known; the student should use "yes/no, ma'am/sir."
- Students should demonstrate good manners at all times towards adults as well as fellow students.
- Students are expected to treat all adults, both teachers and parents, with respect and obedience.
- Obedience means when and what the teacher or parent says, and is not contingent upon student opinions.
- Students should maintain a devout attitude during times of prayer and devotions.
- Students should use proper English, not slang, when speaking.
- Profanity and vulgar language are not permitted.
- Shouting, screaming and horseplay are not permitted in the school building.

### **Disciplinary Procedure**

It is the student's responsibility, appropriate to the student's age and grade level, to maintain appropriate behavior in the classroom and throughout the school building and grounds. A student who engages in conduct, whether inside or outside the school, that is detrimental to the reputation of the school, may be disciplined by the administration. The following discuss the kinds of behavior that are not tolerated at Regina Pacis Academy and the resulting possible disciplinary actions.

#### **I. Infractions at a primary level include but not limited to:**

- Violation of classroom rules/procedures
- Violation of non-classroom space rules/procedures
- Tardy to class
- Violation of the school uniform policy



- Disruptive behavior in the classroom or other areas of the school building including shouting out, excessive talking, and answering a teacher or classmates in a rude or discourteous manner.
- Coming to class unprepared
- Inappropriate language, gestures or defiant behaviors
- Inappropriate physical behavior such as rough housing
- Possession of unacceptable items
- Cheating and plagiarism
- Unexcused absence from school
- Being in an unauthorized location without permission
- Failure to report to a teacher for detention
- Electronic device usage without permission
- Drawing and writing in textbooks
- Chewing gum in the classroom or school building

**Consequences of above infractions at the primary level include but not limited to:**

- Verbal warning with name on board for second warning
- Time with the Principal
- Parental notification
- Teacher/parent conference
- Detention: students will be given a detention notice to be brought home and signed by a parent. A choice of two days will be given to serve the detention. The notice must be returned to school

The following are more serious kinds of behavior that are not tolerated at Regina Pacis Academy and their more serious logical consequences:

**II. Infractions at a secondary level include but not limited to:**

- Repeated behavior from primary level infractions
- Failure to comply with reasonable request/direction of school personnel
- Action that threatens the safety of others or self
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Bullying of any kind
- Possession of alcohol, tobacco or drugs
- Possession of a weapon or harmful objects such as pocket knives, paring knives, or any sharp objects that could be interpreted as weapons
- Continued disrespect shown toward teacher, staff member or classmates
- Forgery
- False complaint

- Inappropriate use of Technology: use of cell phones or any electronic devices during the school day is prohibited
- A second suspension in a school year
- Assaulting another person on school grounds

**Consequences of above infractions at the more serious secondary level include but not limited to:**

- Parental notification and meeting with Principal
- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension (up to 10 days)
- Disciplinary probation: In being placed on disciplinary probation, a student and his/her parents need to agree to a behavioral contract as set forth by the administration. If the student does not comply, he/she may be expelled from school
- Possible expulsion

**NOTE 1:** All infractions at this following secondary level are kept in the student's records.

**NOTE 2:** In the case that a suspension is warranted, the student is required to have all assigned work completed upon his/her return to school. Students have up to 5 days from the day of their return to complete all missed tests and quizzes. All work not made up within the allotted time will be recorded as a zero. Teachers are not expected to provide any extra tutorial help to a suspended student.

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## **Academic Policy**

### **Homework**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of homework is to reinforce and strengthen skills, which were taught in class. Homework also fosters responsibility, self-reliance, and initiative and time management skills. It helps students develop competent study habits. Homework includes (but is not necessarily limited to): daily assignments, completing work not finished during class, studying for tests, review of concepts presented in class, taking notes, completing projects and preparing presentations, and reading assignments.

## **Student's Responsibility**

The general guideline will be that 10 minutes of homework will be given nightly for each year a child has been in school.

Kindergarten By mid-year, approximately 10 minutes of homework

1<sup>st</sup> grade 20 minutes (this will include reading aloud)

2<sup>nd</sup> grade 30 minutes (this will include reading aloud)

3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grade 40 – 50 minutes

5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade 1 hour – 1 hour 15 minutes

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade 1 hour -1 hour 30 minutes

## **Parent's Responsibility**

Create a routine in the household that allows for “homework time.” Discuss with your children the best place and time to do homework. For very young children, the parent will be instrumental in setting the tone for homework so that the child will develop habits for the later years of school. Your child is expected to do the homework independently, with a few exceptions:

- Listening to the child read aloud.
- Practicing spelling words
- Drilling math facts
- Proofreading an essay (after the child has proofread it)

## **Guidelines for Homework**

### **Late Assignments**

Assignments should be turned in on the due date. If an assignment is not turned in that day, children will fill out a missed assignment sheet (green form) and bring it home that evening. Parents are to sign the form and ask the child to attach it to the completed homework to be turned in the next day. This homework will be worth 70% credit. If the work is more than one day late, the form will continue to be used. Work is expected to be turned in, but for 0% credit.

All assignments must be accounted for in the teacher's grade book in order for the child to be eligible to work for extra credit at the end of the trimester.

If the child is having difficulty with turning in his/her assignments on time please contact the teacher to discuss the matter.

### **Assignment Book**

Students in grades three through eight are given a standard assignment book to be used to keep track of homework assignments. Grades two and three are given weekly assignment pages. For

students who are having difficulty with remembering, completing or properly recording his or her assignments, teachers will check the assignment book and initial it. If the problem continues, parents are asked to also check the assignment book and initial it so the teachers know it is being reviewed. Parents should review each child's book in order to ensure that assignments are being completed on time.

### **Grading Policy**

Students in grades kindergarten through second are evaluated on the following scale. Physical Education, music and art also use this scale:

- E Student is making Excellent progress in a given skill/area
- S+ Student is doing a Very Good progress in a given skill/area
- S Student is making Satisfactory progress in a given skill/area
- NI Student Needs Improvement in a given skill/area

Students in grades 3 through 8 are given numerical grades:

- A 93-100
- B 85-92
- C 77-84
- D 70-76
- F Below 70

### **Report Cards**

There are three marking periods in the academic year. Report cards are issued at the end of each marking period. Report cards should be signed by a parent or guardian and returned to the school.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled at the end of the first marking period. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the student's academic progress. Conferences may be scheduled if requested by a teacher or parent for the second and third trimesters.

### **Terranova Achievement Tests**

In order to ensure that Regina Pacis Academy is maintaining high academic standards and, to evaluate the effectiveness of teaching methods and materials, the Terranova Achievement Tests are taken by all students in grades one through eight. The tests are administered in May of each year and individual student results are forwarded to parents.

## **Administrative Procedures**

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### **School Attendance and Absence**

Regular attendance is necessary for success in school. However, if a student is ill or cannot attend parents should notify the school by 8:30AM by calling and leaving a message at the school phone 203-642-4501.

If the student has been absent for more than 5 days in succession the parents should send a note that contain the following: the date(s) of absence, the reason for absence, the parent's signature and an accompanying note from a physician.

Following any absence, it is the student's responsibility to request all missed work from the teacher, and to complete it in a timely manner, as determined by the teacher.

### **Tardiness**

Students are required to be in the school gym no later than 8:45AM. The doors of the gym will be close at 8:50AM for morning prayer. Children entering the school after this time are considered tardy and must sign a Tardy Sheet placed in the hall for this purpose. After 3 tardy arrivals parents will receive an email from their teacher. After another 2 tardy arrivals (5 total), the student will receive a required detention either during or after school. If more than 5 tardy arrivals, the Principal will call a meeting with the parents. Tardies reset at the end of each Trimester.

With an understanding that some of our families do travel from other towns, a tardy related to weather delays or a traffic accident should be excusable and does not count if you call into the office ahead of time.

### **Vacations**

Major schools vacations are scheduled during December, February, and April. Students are not

allowed to be absent from the school outside these scheduled school vacations, unless they have been pre-approved in writing by the Principal and teacher. Unavoidable absences of two or more days require students in all grades to obtain a “Planned Absence Form” which provides teachers with a documented record of the days that will be missed. Notification to the school of such planned absence should be made at least 5 days in advance of the absence.

### **Appointments during School Hours**

The school asks parents to please avoid making doctor, dental or other appointments during regular school hours. The early removal of children from the classroom is disruptive to the class and detrimental to the education of the student. Any early removal request from the classroom must be approved by the Principal in writing (email or written note) prior to day of the request.

### **Textbooks and Personal Items**

All books, unless purchased by the student, are loaned to the student by the school. Books should be covered and labeled with the student’s name. They should be cared for properly, should not be written in, and should not be left unattended. Any lost or damaged books must be paid for.

Personal items, such as coats, sweaters, lunch boxes, book bags, etc. should be labeled with the student’s name. No electronic devices such as radios, cell phones, etc. are permitted at school.

### **Inclement Weather Announcements**

Regina Pacis Academy follows the Norwalk Public School schedule for delays or closings due to snow or inclement weather. Delayed opening times are calculated assuming an 8AM start, such that a 2 hour delay would result in a 10AM start to the school day.

Contact Information: 203-854-4123 / [www.NorwalkPublicSchools.org](http://www.NorwalkPublicSchools.org)

### **Medical Record and Health Policies**

#### **Immunizations**

A copy of each student's current immunization record is required by the State of Connecticut to be kept on file by the school.

#### **Medications**

If at all possible, medications should be taken at home. If medication is to be administered during school hours, the school must have the pertinent information from a physician and a signed form from the parents giving the school permission to administer the medication. Any medication that

must be taken at school must be labeled with the child's name and brought to the school in its original container by the parent.

### **Allergies**

Regina Pacis Academy is a Nut-free school. All teachers will have a complete list of children's emergency contacts and allergies. If your child has an allergy, please give your teacher a note or phone call.

### **Illness**

The cooperation of the parents is requested in order to keep a healthy school environment for the students and teachers. If a student becomes ill while at school, the parents will be notified immediately to pick up the student. Please keep any children at home who show symptoms of illness such as cold symptoms, sore throat, coughing, nausea, fever or headache. Children should remain at home until fully recovered.

### **Accident/Injury /Damage Reporting**

Despite taking all necessary precautions, it is inevitable that accidents, injuries and property damage will occur. In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of the school's property and liability insurance policy, accidents, injuries or damage to facilities must be reported to the principal. An "Accident/Damage Report" form should be completed and returned to the principal within no less than one week.

### **Complaints / Grievances / Concerns Policy and Procedures**

At Regina Pacis Academy, the complaints, grievance, and concerns policy is intended for issues to be resolved between the parties involved at the most intimate and direct level, before bringing the matter up the line to the board. The Principal of the school has jurisdiction over all matters related to the day-to-day operations of the school. Therefore all general issues and complaints should first start at the teacher and principal level. The following outlines the process and policy we ask all families to adhere to:

#### **I. General Issues**

For issues involving faculty, students, academic, disciplinary, or interpersonal (those which affect a child's ability to learn in the classroom or on school grounds), the process for airing the concern is:

1. Contact teacher verbally and then follow up with an email, always copying the Principal.
2. If not resolved to satisfaction, contact Principal for a meeting or conversation. Please note that the Principal has full authority and jurisdiction over these types of issues.

3. If unresolved to satisfaction after Principal meeting, family will have the right to write a formal letter to the Board seeking its involvement. *When contacting any of the Board of Trustees, all members must be included in the letter or email.* Upon receipt of letter, Board will contact Principal for input as to the case in question and any relevant precedents or circumstances. Board will funnel letter to appropriate committee and decide if it is an issue it will address or leave to the Principal's discretion.

## **II. Legal or Safety Issues**

Regina Pacis Academy is acutely concerned with the safety and well being of our student body and faculty members. These types of issues are much more serious in nature and should be surfaced immediately as they happen. They will require the immediate notification of the Principal and Board. These types of issues include but are not limited to personal safety, serious offenses to code of conduct, or any activities that are illegal. The process for airing the concern is:

1. Contact Principal immediately, both verbally and in writing, copying the Board on correspondence. *When copying any of the Board of Trustees, all members must be included in the letter or email.* Upon receipt, the Principal will address and inform the Board of the issue.
2. The Board will actively address any of these major issues in partnership and with the Principal.

All personnel, students, and families are asked to follow the proper channels when raising questions and airing concerns. Please avoid discussing issues unnecessarily with others, as this can lead to undue anxiety among other families as well as undermine the school. It is essential that all differences of opinion be handled with charity and prayer.

## **Maintenance of Records, Confidentiality and Release of Records**

All student records are maintained by the school and are kept strictly confidential. Student records are official records and are the property of the school. Parents have the right to review their child's records although no records may be altered or removed. Records may be requested for transfer to another school or for transcripts upon graduation.

## **Other**

The Board of Trustees along with the principal of Regina Pacis Academy may, from time to time, as becomes necessary, amend and alter this handbook. Any changes or revisions will be promptly communicated to parents and faculty.



The Regina Pacis Academy mission states that the school must provide an affordable classical catholic education for all who seek it. This creates a requirement on every family that attends Regina Pacis Academy to help support the mission through volunteer work and fundraising. Without the support of all our family community the school will not be successful in executing its stated mission, vision, goals and objectives. All families who attend Regina Pacis Academy are required to volunteer their time in some way. There are many different types of volunteering programs to participate in.

Each family that attends Regina Pacis Academy is required to donate either hours of service or a set dollar amount on an annual basis to help achieve our mission. Each year at the beginning of the school year families will receive a “Volunteer Contract” in which they can select how they will fill this obligation. The contracts will outline the requirement for the current year and include specific ways to volunteer. The hourly and financial requirement per family may change on a year-to-year basis. Each family is required to commit to this contract. Contracts will be reviewed by a board representative quarterly and periodically discussed with the families to ensure commitments are being met.

### **Virtus Training and Background Check**

All parents involved in volunteering at our school must complete the Virtus Training and have a background check. We can accept Virtus Training Certificates dated 2011- 2015. Please submit your certificate to the Business Manager, in the school office.

#### ***VIRTUS AWARENESS TRAINING & CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS***

*NEW PERSONNEL: Prior to working or volunteering, all new personnel are required to register online with VIRTUS [www.virtusonline.org](http://www.virtusonline.org) and complete a live VIRTUS training session which lasts approximately three 3-hours. The Mind Your Business, Inc. (MYB) criminal background check and an electronic acknowledgement of the Safe Environment Handbook is included in the new registration process.*

*RENEWALS: Effective as of January 1, 2015, all members of the Clergy, Religious Sisters and Brothers, Lay Employees of the Diocese (Full-time, Part-Time and Per-Diem) age 18 and above and all volunteers who are working in scheduled contact with minors and vulnerable adults must, every five (5) years, undergo a criminal background check and must complete online VIRTUS re-certification on child abuse prevention.*

*Diocese of Bridgeport*

## **Seton Society-Parent Organization of Regina Pacis Academy**

### **Mission Statement**

The Seton Society is the parent organization of Regina Pacis Academy. The mission of the Seton Society is to coordinate parent volunteers and to build a strong school community. The Seton Society is dedicated to service founded in faith. Our activities support the mission of our school, which is to provide an affordable classical education in the tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. This Society provides parents the opportunity to actively participate in the life and growth of our school through service. The Seton Society promotes unity as parents work together to offer time and talents for the benefit of our children. Members serve under the direction of the Principal. We ask Our Lady, Queen of Peace, to guide and unite us in all we do. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, pray for us.

### **Seton Society Committees (2015-2016)**

#### **Feast Day Celebrations**

This committee will organize feast day celebrations throughout the school year (i.e., Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. John Bosco, St. Joseph).

#### **Helping Hands**

This committee will organize a group of volunteers to help new and existing families in our school.

1. This committee will help to welcome new families to our school.
  - This may be done in a variety of ways including coordinating events to introduce the new families to existing RPA families (i.e., school picnic, park playdate)
  - Family Matchup. New families will be paired with an existing RPA family (host family). The host family will help to welcome and acclimate the new families into our community by serving as an information source throughout the entire academic year.
  - This committee will coordinate having at least two current RPA parents present at Open Houses to welcome prospective families.
2. This committee will coordinate volunteers(through “meal baby” website for example) for families who are in need of meals following a new baby, surgery, or other circumstances.

#### **Hospitality**

This committee will organize refreshments for events throughout the school year.

- The Hospitality Committee will coordinate receptions for the Christmas Play, the Spring Play, and the May Crowning
- This committee will coordinate staff lunches (i.e., for teacher appreciation week).

## **Library**

The coordinator for this committee will oversee the school library. Parent volunteers will assist during student library times to help checking books in and out of the school library system and straighten and maintain bookshelves.

## **Potlucks**

This committee will organize potluck dinners for parents and teachers throughout the school year. Potlucks are an adult social evening, which provide the opportunity to welcome new families and to build community among all parents and faculty of Regina Pacis Academy. Other guests may be included with approval of/or at the request of the Principal. Guests could include prospective parents, parents of RPA graduates, and clergy.

## **Rosary and Coffee**

This committee will host a monthly rosary for mothers and small children followed by a coffee hour.

## **Safe Environment**

The coordinator of this committee will track parent volunteer completion of Virtus Training and ensure proper documentation is submitted to the school office. The coordinator will also ensure that each parent volunteer has had a background check.

## **School Picnics**

The coordinator for this committee will organize the school picnics for the beginning and end of the school year.

## **Seton Fundraisers**

This committee will coordinate Seton Society fundraisers. Funds collected from these fundraisers will be used for: classroom enhancements, field trips, hospitality supplies, etc. Fundraisers will be coordinated with and approved by the RPA Fundraiser Chair. These fundraisers will include (but are not limited to) Box Tops and Bake Sales.

## **Uniform Exchange**

The coordinator for this committee will collect and store donated uniforms. Uniform exchange will be available to parents at the beginning and end of the school year free of charge.

## **Volunteer Website**

The coordinator for this committee will manage the RPA volunteer website (where parents can sign up to volunteer for various events and activities). The website is [www.reginapacis.ivolunteer.com](http://www.reginapacis.ivolunteer.com) Password: rpa2015

Regina Pacis Academy, like most private schools, operates at a deficit between tuition generated and the operating expenses required to run the school. This means that tuition income generated does not cover what it costs to operate our school. Therefore we must look for other ways to raise funds to operate the school.

Active fundraising is a key element of the successful execution of the School Mission. Without successful and robust fundraising Regina Pacis Academy can not and will not be able to survive. Every family that attends Regina Pacis Academy is required to help the fundraising activities.

## Appendix A

### Regina Pacis Academy Curriculum

#### **Kindergarten**

**Theology:** The children are taught the basics of our Catholic faith in a language they can understand. They begin learning who they are by learning who God is. Key emphasis on: the Faith, the Sacraments, life of prayer, lives of the saints, the Liturgical calendar and practicing the virtues. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is taught by qualified teachers, thus helping children to be receptive to prayer through controlled movements and silence.

Textbook: Who am I? Image of God Series

**Language Arts:** The children are taught with a phonic-based reading program. Children learn to read and write with both classroom instruction and one-on-one reading. A love of literature is fostered by teachers reading aloud from a beautiful selection of children's picture books and poetry.

Textbooks: Sound Beginnings, Teaching Your Child to Read in 100 Easy Lessons, Explode the Code, Memoria Press Copybook

**History:** The story of man is unfolded to the children from Creation up to the present day... their story, one or two historical events or figures per week. Children learn that all world events and individual lives are part of God's loving Providence. Enriching the history text are many stories, art and music of the historical time.

Textbook: First Timeline, Mary Daly

**Latin:** Introduction to Latin through vocabulary and prayers. Children learn the Pater Noster, Ave Maria, Gloria Patri, table blessing and Latin Songs.

Helpful book: Usborne First Thousand Words in Latin

**Math:** Children learn counting, writing numbers, recognizing patterns and shapes, telling time to the hour, basic addition and subtraction, hands-on work with manipulatives as well as workbooks.

Textbook: Saxon Kindergarten

**Science:** Children learn wonder of our world created by God through observation and experience with the natural world, the five senses, the seasons, plants and animals. Enriching the science themes are many related fictional and non-fictional books.

Textbook: God's World, A Beka Book

**Art:** Children learn basic art concepts and use of materials, looking at the works of the masters and experimenting with different techniques.

**Music:** Exposure to the great music of the masters. Children sing with teacher frequently.

**Poetry:** Memorization of poems by Robert Stevenson, Lewis Carroll and others.

**Physical Education:** Basics of body control, use of equipment and team play.

### **First and Second Grades**

**Theology:** Children are taught about their Catholic faith. The first graders and second graders come together for some lessons about the Lives of the Saints, memorization of some prayers (Morning Offering, Memorare, Angelus, Act of Contrition), and liturgical celebrations. Some instruction is separate so as to prepare second graders for First Holy Communion. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd is taught by qualified teachers, thus helping children to be receptive to prayer through controlled movements and silence.

Textbooks: Faith and Life: Our Heavenly Father; Faith and Life: Jesus Our Life St. Joseph First Communion Catechism, The Children's Golden Bible

**Language Arts:** Reading and spelling taught with a phonic-based program. Children read at their own pace aloud to teachers and individually with checks for comprehension. Children develop a love of reading and literature. Cursive writing is begun in the first grade with complete cursive writing by the end of second grade.

Textbooks and books: Open Court Readers, Children's Golden Bible, Tales of Beatrix Potter, extensive collection of novels, picture books, fairy and folk tales and poetry. Explode the Code, New American Cursive, Memoria Press

**History:** Children learn about history covering the time period from the fall of Rome to the

Renaissance. Stories, art and music of the historical period are incorporated.

Textbook: The Story of the World, Volume 1

**Latin:** Children learn basic grammar, vocabulary, and prayers in Latin to include Pater Noster, Ave Maria, Gloria Patri, table blessing before and after meals, Angelus.

Textbook: Prima Latina, Memoria Press

**Math:**

Textbook: Saxon Math Grade 1; Saxon Math Grade 2

**Science:** Children learn through observation and experience the wonder of weather, cloud formations, astronomy, phases of the moon, earth formations and the atmosphere. Children learn facts of science through memorization and rhyme. Enriching the science themes are many related fictional and nonfictional books.

Helpful books: Constellations of the Night Sky; All About Weather, Dover Publications

**Art:** Art is a major language of childhood and a compelling expression of who a child is and how they view the world they live in. The children learn: An appreciation for the visual arts; To understand art as a visual record and expression of mankind; The six fundamentals of art (line, shape, color, texture, space and value); to create works that are uplifting, edifying and pleasing to God.

**Music:** The Ward Method; The children learn Gregorian chant and music theory. Children are part of the Regina Pacis Schola Cantorum. They sing for the greater glory of God at Mass and school participation in the Divine Office.

**Poetry:** Memorization of poems by Robert Stevenson, Lewis Carroll and others.

**Physical Education:** Children learn basic physical skills, fundamentals of soccer, basketball, kickball, rules of various games, cooperation and team play.

### **Third and Fourth Grades**

**Theology:** Children are taught more about their Catholic faith. The third and fourth graders read novels about the lives of the Saints and write Saint reports. They present these reports throughout the year, sometimes in the costume of the Saint. The children learn to emulate the Saints. Children continue memorization of prayers, learn to lead a decade of the School Rosary, are invited to participate in monthly confessions, memorize the Baltimore Catechism and participate in liturgical celebrations.

Textbooks: Faith and Life: Our Life with Jesus; Jesus Our Guide Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 1)

**English:** Love of reading is fostered by children reading novels at their own level and pace. The class also joins in the study of classical poetry and novels many that relate to period of history studied, discussing the stories and learning new vocabulary. The third grade students continue work with phonics with Explode the Code, finishing the series. The phonics learned from these books are incorporated into the spelling lists that the students study each week. The fourth graders use Wordly Wise books for vocabulary and spelling practice. The students study grammar.

Textbooks and books: Classical novels, Selected Literature for class study: Charlotte's Web, Farmer Boy, Lassie Come Home, Heidi, Explode the Code, Wordly Wise 3000, Voyages in English

**History:** A two-year curriculum includes the study of world history covering the time of creation until the 20th Century in one year. The students work on historical projects as well as a timeline throughout the year. The second year includes concentrated study of early American History. The students work on historical projects and study geography of the United States. Stories, poetry, art and music of the historical periods are incorporated.

Textbooks: A Child's History of the World, Virgil M. Hillyer How Our Nation Began, Lepanto Press

**Latin:** Children learn basic grammar, vocabulary, and prayers in Latin to include Pater Noster, Ave Maria, Gloria Patri, table blessing before and after meals, Angelus and Holy Scripture.

Textbook: Latina Christiana, Memoria Press

### **Math:**

Textbooks: Saxon Math 3, Saxon Math 5/4



**Science:** Students learn through investigation, observation, memorization and reading about living things, the earth's surface, electricity and magnetism. The children work on projects and experiments individually and in groups.

Textbook: Harcourt for Fourth Grade

**Art:** Art is a major language of childhood and a compelling expression of who a child is and how they view the world they live in. The goal of our art program is to provide an experience that allows the child to develop their individual, unique art language in the context of solid skill, techniques, projects and Art History. The third and fourth grade students embark on a two-year cycle of Art Appreciation travelling through time, exploring the artistic styles, images and themes of different cultures of peoples throughout history. The students learn the proper use and techniques of various art mediums and tools through painting, drawing, collage sculpture and more.

**Music:** The Ward Method; The children learn Gregorian chant and music theory. Children are part of the Regina Pacis Schola Cantorum. They sing for the greater glory of God at Mass and school participation in the Divine Office.

**Poetry:** Students memorize, recite and analyze classical poems. They learn poetry terms, rhyme schemes and artistic expression. Cursive handwriting instruction and practice continues in the tradition of copying poetry beautifully for presentation.

Textbooks and books: Poetry for the Grammar Stage, Memoria Press, Selected books of children's poetry.

**Physical Education:** Children learn basic physical skills, fundamentals of soccer, basketball, kickball, rules of various games, cooperation and team play.

### **Fifth and Sixth Grades**

**Theology:** Children are taught about our Catholic faith. The fifth and sixth graders read and discuss the writings of Blessed Mother Teresa, other Saints and Romano Guardini. They create a journal of reflections based on these writings. Children continue memorization of prayers, lead a decade of the School Rosary, are invited to participate in monthly confessions, memorize the Baltimore Catechism and participate in liturgical celebrations.

Textbooks: Faith and Life: Credo: I Believe; Following Christ, The New Saint Joseph Baltimore Catechism (No. 2)

**English:** Students study classical literature, some of which corresponds with the period of history studied. As a class, they consider whether a story or character is fair or just. They consider symbols and foreshadowing. They learn the meaning and use of new vocabulary from the stories. A love of literature is fostered by wonderful stories shared as a class and novels selected individually by students. Children study grammar to include diagramming sentences.

Textbooks and books: Voyages in English 6, D'Aulaires Greek Myths, The Children's Homer (Padraic Colum), The Princess and the Goblin, The Princess and Curdie (George MacDonald), The Bronze Bow (A Wrinkle in Time (Madeleine L'Engle), Alladin, Loving Jesus, Johnny Tremain, The Narnia Series, The Hobbit (J.R.R. Tolkien), Where the Red Fern Grows (Wilson Rawls)

**History:** The students study ancient civilizations in a two-year cycle. They explore Greek and Roman civilizations. The students delve into the lives and minds of famous Greeks and learn about the triumphs of Aristotle, Ptolemy, Odysseus, Pericles, Alexander the Great and many others. They are fascinated by the action and drama of the Roman. They explore art and architecture. The texts aid students in learning about their past and rich inheritance of wisdom and culture.

Textbooks: Famous Men of Greece; Famous Men of Rome, Memoria Press

**Latin:** Fifth and sixth graders study Latin in a two-year cycle. One year they learn basic vocabulary, syntax, and paradigms using the textbook Getting Started with Latin by George Linney. In the other year, the focus is on fluency in reading, and Roman history and culture, using the textbook Minimus: Starting out in Latin by Barbara Bell.

Textbooks: Getting Started with Latin, George Linney Minimus: Starting out in Latin, Barbara Bell

### **Math:**

Textbook: Saxon 6/5, Saxon 7/6

**Science:** Students study physics while reading the fascinating work of Archimedes. They continue with the Harcourt series, studying the cell in greater depth, plant life, structure of the earth, basic biomes, weather and climate, and systems of the human body. Students are introduced to atomic structure and outer space. Students enjoy experiments, projects and presentations.

Textbooks: Harcourt for Sixth Grade Archimedes and the Door of Science, Jeanne Berdick

Large collection of reference books

**Art:** Students continue to learn the use and techniques of various art mediums. As in younger grades, instruction includes techniques of various art mediums and tools through painting, drawing, collage sculpture and more. Students are encouraged to work more independently.

**Music:** The Ward Method; The children learn Gregorian chant and music theory. Children are part of the Regina Pacis Schola Cantorum. They sing for the greater glory of God at Mass and school participation in the Divine Office.

**Poetry/Drama:** Students memorize, recite and analyze classical poems. They study vocabulary and reinforce spelling skills. All students have roles in the school play.

Textbooks: Spelling for Christian Schools, Selected books of poetry

**Physical Education:** Children learn exercises and stretches to build strength and balance. Fundamentals of soccer, volleyball, basketball, football, badminton, and kickball are taught in team play.

### **Seventh and Eighth Grades**

**Theology:** Children learn about our Catholic faith. They learn how the Church was instituted by whom. They learn about the hierarchy of Church authority. They enjoy classroom discussion and projects that allow them to express their beliefs. Children read the writings of saints and Catholic authors such as Romano Guardini.

**English:** The focus of the seventh and eighth grade English curriculum is close reading of various genres: short stories, novels (The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, A Tale of Two Cities), and plays (Macbeth). Attention is also paid to honing grammatical, vocabulary, and writing skills. Students give oral presentations based on their reading assignments.

Textbooks: Easy Grammar, Classic novels and short stories

**History:** United States History

This history course tells the story of North America, from the time the first European settlers

arrived. Students learn about interactions between Europeans and Natives, the founding of the United States of America, and the history of the nation up to the twentieth century. There is particular attention paid to the contributions of the many Catholics who shaped our nation's history and evangelized in the New World. In addition to reading from the textbook and multiple primary source documents from each era, students write essays, debate, give presentations, and engage in creative thinking and writing assignments. Students also learn geography pertaining to each area studied.

Textbook: From Sea to Shining Sea: The Story of America. Catholic Schools Textbook Project.

**World History:** This course covers world history and culture from the following areas and eras: prehistory, Greeks, Romans, rise of Christianity, European Middle Ages, China, Japan, Russia, European Renaissance, Africa and the Americas up to the mid 1800's. In addition to reading from the textbook and multiple primary source documents from each era, students write essays, debate, give presentations, and engage in creative thinking and writing assignments. Students also learn geography pertaining to each area studied.

Textbook: All Ye Lands: World Cultures and Geography. Catholic Schools Textbook Project.

**Latin:** Students in 7th grade study Latin grammar using the textbook Latin for Americans Book I. Grade 8 students continue more advanced lessons in the same textbook. Both grades work on reading fluency, vocabulary, syntax, noun case endings, and verb conjugation. They also learn about Roman history and culture. All students take the National Latin Exam in March.

Textbook: Latin for Americans, Book I

**Math:** Students study pre-algebra, algebra I or geometry based on their competency with mathematical concepts.

Textbooks: Saxon Algebra 1/2, Saxon Algebra, McDougal-Little: Geometry

**Science:** Students learn through observation, experimentation and lecture aspects of biology. Areas covered include cells, heredity, microorganisms, plants, animals and the human body.

Textbooks: Cells, Heredity, and Classification; Animals; The Human Body; Microorganism, Fungi and Plants, Holt, Rinehart and Winston

**Art:** Classic drawing program (John Schmitt) using traditional drawing techniques; concepts of line, form, perspective, composition, value. Students work entirely from observation using the

works of masters or from life and nature using mainly dry material such as graphite pencil and charcoal, some pen and ink.

**Music:** The Ward Method; The children learn Gregorian chant and music theory. Children are part of the Regina Pacis Schola Cantorum. They sing for the greater glory of God at Mass and school participation in the Divine Office.

**Poetry/Drama:** Students memorize and analyze selections from Richard Wilbur, Robert Frost, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Gerard M. Hopkins. Our school puts on an annual Spring play. Plays are adapted to this age group such as A Midsummer's Night Dream, Robin Hood, and The Redheaded League. All children have a part in the play.

Vocabulary is integrated with poetry.

Textbooks: Wordly Wise series; Selected books of poetry.

**Physical Education:** Children learn exercises and stretches to build strength and balance. Fundamentals of soccer, volleyball, basketball, football, badminton, and kickball are taught in team play.



## **Regina Pacis Academy**

8 Leonard St, Norwalk, CT 06850

Telephone number: (203) 642-4501